



Finding Aid for

DEARBORN INDEPENDENT RECORDS, 1919-1928
BFRC 002

Accessions 91.98, 218, 271 and 273

Finding Aid Published: May 2012



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Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
research.center@thehenryford.org

ACCESSION NUMBER: 91.98, 218, 271 and 273

CREATOR: Dearborn Publishing Company

TITLE: *Dearborn Independent* records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1919-1928

QUANTITY: 8 cubic ft., 11 oversize boxes and 1 folder

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: Henry Ford published the *Dearborn Independent* from 1919-1927. These four avversions contain financial records, correspondence concerning the court case and text and graphics from the newspaper.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The series is open for research.
- COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION: Ford Motor Company Archives donation, 1964 (Accession 218, 271 and 273) and private donation, 1991 (Accession 91.98)
- RELATED MATERIAL: Related material held by The Henry Ford:
- Dearborn Publishing Company records, Accession 305
- *Dearborn Independent* Aaron Sapiro v. Henry Ford lawsuit collection, Accession 48
- PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 91.98, 218, 271 **or** 273, *Dearborn Independent* records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION: Ford Motor Company Archives staff processed Accession 218 in 1954, 271 in 1955 and 273 in 1964. Accession 91.98 was processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff in 1991.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Ford Motor Company Archives staff created original collection inventory lists for Accession 218 in 1954, 271 in 1955 and 273 in 1964. The original inventory for Accession 91.98 was created Benson Ford Research Center staff in 1991.
- Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, May 2012, and published in May 2012.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Dearborn Independent began publication in 1901 in Dearborn, Michigan. It was published between 1901 and 1905 by J. J. Brown of the Suburban Publishing Company, and from 1905 until 1918 by M. T. Woodruff. Henry Ford purchased the small-town weekly in November 1918 to provide a forum in which to rectify what he felt were misinterpretations of his opinions by the press, and as an outlet for his ideas on social issues. The Dearborn Publishing Company, which published *The Dearborn Independent*, was formed in November 1918, with Henry Ford as president, Clara Ford, vice-president, Edsel Ford, secretary-treasurer and E.G. Pipp, editor. The first publication under Henry Ford's ownership was issued on January 11, 1919.

Articles covered a wide range of topics and geographical areas, both national and international. The following fields were particularly well-covered: politics; industry and agriculture; transportation; education and training; science and technology; health and welfare; leisure and travel; entertainment and the arts.

The newspaper is remembered chiefly as a vehicle for Henry Ford's anti-Semitic views, aired in two campaigns in 1920-1921 and 1924-1925. The second, and most notorious, campaign criticized Chicago attorney Aaron Sapiro for organizing farmers into what Ford felt were unfair marketing monopolies. Sapiro brought a defamation of character lawsuit against Henry Ford in March 1927 which was settled out of court the following July. Henry Ford published his last issue of *The Dearborn Independent* in December 1927.

Despite its vast circulation, with subscriptions exceeding 900,000 at its peak in 1925 and 1926, *The Dearborn Independent* was not a commercial success during the Ford era, losing \$5 million in 8 years. In late 1928, *The Dearborn Independent* subsequently resumed publication as a tri-weekly newspaper, under the new ownership of George O. St. Charles. It was amalgamated with *The Dearborn Press* in 1961, under the title, *The Dearborn Press-The Dearborn Independent*. In 1963, the name was dropped entirely from the newspaper, which continued to be published as *The Dearborn Press*.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Accession 91.98

The accession includes photoprints and drawings which were used to illustrate articles in *The Dearborn Independent* during a portion of the period of Henry Ford's ownership. The range of subject matter of the images is vast. The following examples give an idea of the diversity: laboratory technicians smashing plates in Washington DC to test the relative durability of American and imported crockery; hydro-electric power plants; blind war veterans plucking chickens in a rehabilitation project; inventions that include lie detectors, electronic medical equipment to diagnose disease, and coffee decaffeinator; Seminole Indians in full tribal costume instructing wealthy American women in archery; children visiting art galleries; bread lines in New York; the destruction of illegal gambling and distilling equipment during Prohibition; and

an elderly African-American woman fleeing the flooded Mississippi River with her few remaining possessions.

The illustrations, and corresponding texts in which the images appeared, are organized by date of issue. The images are further subdivided by individual article within each folder. Related images taken to illustrate articles but never published are included in the corresponding folders. Miscellaneous graphics that cannot be identified with a particular article in *The Dearborn Independent* are included in Box 16. Oversize materials are organized at the end of the collection.

Accession 218

This accession contains one ledger of balance sheets and correspondence for 1920-1921.

Accession 271

This accession consists of financial records for the Dearborn Publishing Company, including check registers, ledgers, vouchers and time sheet reports.

Accession 273

This small accession (one folder) contains correspondence from the public concerning the Aaron Sapiro and Henry Ford/*Dearborn Independent* court case, as well as a subpoena for William J. Cameron.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Dearborn Publishing Company
Ford, Henry, 1863-1947
Sapiro, Aaron

Subjects

Antisemitism
Dearborn Independent
Trials, libel

Genre or Form

Financial records
Periodicals
Photographs
Drawings (visual works)

CONTAINER LIST

Box no. **Description**

ACCESSION 91.98

Box 1

January 14, 1922 (graphics)
January 21, 1922 (graphics)
January 28, 1922 (graphics; 2 folders)
February 18, 1922 (graphics)
February 25, 1922 (graphics)
March 4, 1922 (graphics)
March 11, 1922 (graphics)
March 18, 1922 (graphics)
March 25, 1922 (graphics)
April 1, 1922 (graphics)
April 29, 1922 (graphics)

Box 2

May 6, 1922 (graphics)
May 13, 1922 (graphics)
May 27, 1922 (graphics)
June 3, 1922 (graphics)
June 10, 1922 (graphics)
June 17, 1922 (graphics)
June 24, 1922 (graphics)
July 1, 1922 (graphics)
July 8, 1922 (graphics)
July 22, 1922 (graphics)
July 29, 1922 (graphics)
August 12, 1922 (graphics)
August 19, 1922 (graphics)
August 26, 1922 (text)
August 26, 1922 (graphics)

Box 3

September 2, 1922 (text)
September 2, 1922 (graphics)
September 9, 1922 (text)
September 9, 1922 (graphics)
September 16, 1922 (text)
September 16, 1922 (graphics) (1 of 2)
September 16, 1922 (graphics) (2 of 2)
September 23, 1922 (text)
September 23, 1922 (graphics)
September 30, 1922 (text)
September 30, 1922 (graphics)

October 7, 1922 (graphics)
October 14, 1922 Text
October 14, 1922 (graphics)
October 21, 1922 (text)
October 21, 1922 (graphics)
October 28, 1922 (text)
October 28, 1922 (graphics)

Box 4

November 11, 1922 (text)
November 11, 1922 (graphics)
November 18, 1922 (text)
November 18, 1922 (graphics)
November 25, 1922 (graphics)
December 2, 1922 (graphics)
December 9, 1922 (text)
December 9, 1922 (graphics; 2 folders)
December 16, 1922 (text)
December 16, 1922 (graphics)
December 23, 1922 (text)
December 23, 1922 (graphics)
December 30, 1922 (graphics)
December 30, 1922 (text)

Box 5

January 13, 1923 (text)
January 13, 1923 (graphics)
January 20, 1923 (text)
January 20, 1923 (graphics)
January 27, 1923 (text)
January 27, 1923 (graphics)
February 3, 1923 (text)
February 3, 1923 (graphics)
February, 10, 1923 (text)
February 10, 1923 (graphics)
February 17, 1923 (text)
February 17, 1923 (graphics)
February 24, 1923 (text)
February 24, 1923 (graphics)

Box 6

March 3, 1923 (text)
March 3, 1923 (graphics)
March 10, 1923 (text)
March 10, 1923 (graphics)
March 17, 1923 (text)

March 17, 1923 (graphics)
March 24, 1923 (text)
March 24, 1923 (graphics)
March 31, 1923 (text)
March 31, 1923 (graphics)
April 14, 1923 (text)
April 14, 1923 (graphics)
April 21, 1923 (text)
April 21, 1923 (graphics)

Box 7

May 26, 1923 (text)
May 26, 1923 (graphics)
June 2, 1923 (text)
June 2, 1923 (graphics)
June 16, 1923 (text)
June 16, 1923 (graphics)
June 23, 1923 (text)
June 23, 1923 (graphics)
June 30, 1923 (text)
June 30, 1923 (graphics)
July 7, 1923 (text)
July 7, 1923 (graphics)
July 14, 1923 (text)
July 14, 1923 (graphics)
July 21, 1923 (text)
July 21, 1923 (graphics)
July 28, 1923 (text)
July 28, 1923 (graphics)
August 4, 1923 (text)
August 4, 1923 (graphics)
August 11, 1923 (text)
August 11, 1923 (graphics)
August 18, 1923 (text)
August 18, 1923 (graphics)

Box 8

September 8, 1923 (text)
September 8, 1923 (graphics)
September 15, 1923 (text)
September 15, 1923 (graphics)
September 22, 1923 (text)
September 22, 1923 (graphics)
September 29, 1923 (text)
September 29, 1923 (graphics)
October 6, 1923 (text)

October 6, 1923 (graphics)
October 13, 1923 (text)
October 13, 1923 (graphics)
October 27, 1923 (text)
October 27, 1923 (graphics)

Box 9

November 3, 1923 (text)
November 3, 1923 (graphics)
November 10, 1923 (text)
November 10, 1923 (graphics)
November 17, 1923 (text)
November 17, 1923 (graphics)
November 24, 1923 (text)
November 24, 1923 (graphics)
December 2, 1922 (text)
December 1, 1923 (text)
December 1, 1923 (graphics)
December 8, 1923 (text)
December 8, 1923 (graphics)
December 15, 1923 (text)
December 15, 1923 (graphics)
December 22, 1923 (text)
December 22, 1923 (graphics)
December 29, 1923 (text)
December 29, 1923 (graphics)

Box 10

January 5, 1924 (graphics)
January 12, 1924 (text)
January 12, 1924 (graphics)
January 19, 1924 (text)
January 19, 1924 (graphics)
January 26, 1924 (text)
January 26, 1924 (graphics)
February 9, 1924 (text)
February 9, 1924 (graphics)
February 16, 1924 (text)
February 16, 1924 (graphics)
March 8, 1924 (text)
March 8, 1924 (graphics)

Box 11

April 12, 1924 (text)
April 12, 1924 (graphics)
April 19, 1924 (text)

April 19, 1924 (graphics)
April 26, 1924 (text)
April 26, 1924 (graphics)
May 10, 1924 (text)
May 10, 1924 (graphics)
May 17, 1924 (text)
May 17, 1924 (graphics)
June 14, 1924 (text)
June 14, 1924 (graphics)
June 21, 1924 (text)
June 21, 1924 (graphics)

Box 12

July 26, 1924 (text)
July 26, 1924 (graphics)
August 2, 1924 (text)
August 2, 1924 (graphics)
August 9, 1924 (text)
August 9, 1924 (graphics)
August 16, 1924 (text)
August 16, 1924 (graphics)
August 23, 1924 (text)
August 23, 1924 (graphics)
August 30, 1924 (text)
August 30, 1924 (graphics)
September 6, 1924 (text)
September 6, 1924 (graphics)
September 13, 1924 (text)
September 13, 1924 (graphics)
September 27, 1924 (text)
September 27, 1924 (graphics)
October 11, 1924 (text)
October 11, 1924 (graphics)
October 18, 1924 (text)
October 18, 1924 (graphics)
October 25, 1924 (text)
October 25, 1924 (graphics)
November 1, 1924 (text)
November 1, 1924 (graphics)
December 6, 1924 (text)
December 6, 1924 (graphics)
December 13, 1924 (text)
December 13, 1924 (graphics)
December 20, 1924 (text)
December 20, 1924 (graphics)
December 27, 1924 (text)

December 27, 1924 (graphics)

Box 13

January 3, 1925 (text)
January 3, 1925 (graphics)
January 10, 1925 (text)
January 10, 1925 (graphics)
January 17, 1925 (text)
January 17, 1925 (graphics)
January 24, 1925 (text)
January 24, 1925 (graphics)
January 31, 1925 (text)
January 31, 1925 (graphics)
February 7, 1925 (text)
February 7, 1925 (graphics)
February 14, 1925 (text)
February 14, 1925 (graphics)
February 21, 1925 (text)
February 21, 1925 (graphics)
February 28, 1925 (text)
February 28, 1925 (graphics)
March 7, 1925 (text)
March 7, 1925 (graphics)
March 14, 1925 (text)
March 14, 1925 (graphics)
April 4, 1925 (text)
April 4, 1925 (graphics)
April 11, 1925 (text)
April 11, 1925 (graphics)
April 18, 1925 (text)
April 18, 1925 (graphics)
April 25, 1925 (text)
April 25, 1925 (graphics)

Box 14

May 2, 1925 (text)
May 2, 1925 (graphics)
May 9, 1925 (text)
May 9, 1925 (graphics)
May 16, 1925 (text)
May 16, 1925 (graphics)
May 23, 1925 (text)
May 23, 1925 (graphics)
June 20, 1925 (text)
June 20, 1925 (graphics)
July 4, 1925 (text)

July 4, 1925 (graphics)
July 11, 1925 (text)
July 11, 1925 (graphics)
July 18, 1925 (text)
July 18, 1925 (graphics)

Box 15

April 3, 1926 (text)
April 3, 1926 (graphics)
April 10, 1926 (text)
April 10, 1926 (graphics)
April 17, 1926 (text)
April 17, 1926 (graphics)
May 22, 1926 (text)
May 22, 1926 (graphics)
May 29, 1926 (text)
May 29, 1926 (graphics)
June 12, 1926 (text)
June 12, 1926 (graphics)
July 3, 1926 (text)
July 3, 1926 (graphics)
July 17, 1926 (text)
July 17, 1926 (graphics)
August 21, 1926 (text)
August 21, 1926 (graphics)
August 28, 1926 (text)
August 28, 1926 (graphics)
October 9, 1926 (text)
October 9, 1926 (graphics)
November 6, 1926 (text)
November 6, 1926 (graphics)
December 4, 1926 (text)
December 4, 1926 (graphics)

Box 16

1922 (graphics)
1923 (graphics)
1924 (graphics)
1925 (graphics)
Undated (graphics)

Box 17 (oversize)

March 11, 1922 (graphics)
March 25, 1922 (graphics)
October 14, 1922 (graphics)
September 30, 1922 (graphics)

August 11, 1923 (graphics)
July 28, 1923 (graphics)
February 9, 1924 (graphics)
April 26, 1924 (graphics)
August 23, 1924 (graphics)
December 13, 1924 (graphics)
February 21, 1925 (graphics)
February 28, 1925 (graphics)
April 18, 1925 (graphics)
May 16, 1925 (graphics)
May 23, 1925 (graphics)
June 20, 1925 (graphics)
June 20, 1925 (graphics)
Undated

ACCESSION 218

Box 1

Dearborn Publishing Company balance sheets and correspondence, 1920-1921 (1 ledger)

ACCESSION 271

Box 1 (oversize)

Complete account book
January - March, 1919
April - June, 1919
October - December, 1919
Cancelled investment certificate
1-200
201-400

Box 3 (oversize)

401-599
600-879
Distribution ledger
1918
1919 (2 folders)

Box 2 (oversize)

Balance sheet
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923

1924
1925

Box 4 (oversize)

Cash received
1919-1920
1921
1922
Check register
1919-1920
1921
1922
Invoices
1921
1922 (2 folders)

Box 5 (oversize)

Cash received
1923
1924
1925
1926
Cash record
1918
1919

Box 6 (oversize)

Check register
1919
1925 (2 folders)
1926 (2 folders)
1927

Box 7

General ledger
1919 (4 folders)
1920 (6 folders)

Box 8

1922 (3 folders)
1923 (3 folders)
1924 (4 folders)

Box 9

1925 (5 folders)
Journal voucher
January - June, 1919
July - December, 1919
Subscription department ledger
1922-1924 (folders 1-4 of 7)

Box 13 (oversize)

1922-1924 (folders 5-7 of 7)
1925-1927 (4 folders)

Box 10 (oversize)

Journal entries
1919-1920
1921 (2 folders)
1922
1923
1924

Box 11 (oversize)

1925
1926
1927
Payroll journal, 1927-1928
Petty cash journal, 1919-1920

Box 12 (oversize)

Journal of distribution, 1919 (2 folders)
Time sheet report
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925

ACCESSION 273

Folder 1

Sampling of correspondence, 1924-1927 (reflecting public reaction to Ford stand on Sapiro case)
Subpoena served on William J. Cameron, ordering him to appear in court to testify and give evidence in the Sapiro case, February 24, 1927 (Photostat)